

The Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2006

Opening

A meeting of the Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee was held on this date.

Present:

Ballantyne, Todd
Gaskill, Jim (Chair)
Mitchell, Dean (DWR Upland Game Program Coordinator)
Perkins, Ernie
Bowers, Mike
Smith, Hal
Staley, John
Proctor, Travis

Old Business

Jim Gaskill reported that the annual sharp-tailed grouse lek counts were organized and ready to start. The wet cold weather may delay them.

Ernie Perkins gave an update on the progress of the guzzler building project. 32 potential guzzler sites have been located. Full permission has been obtained for 3 sites, with 2-3 more close to having full approval. The Utah Chukar and Wildlife Foundation has \$4300 available for construction. It is hoped that additional money will be forthcoming from the Habitat council and WFW. The BLM environmental assessments are progressing thanks to cooperation from Steve Green, Jeff Porter and others. Ernie anticipates some installations in late May. The committee is pleased to see this progress.

Dean Mitchell reported on the sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse trapping and transplanting projects. 13 hen sage-grouse were trapped in Box Elder County and released in the Strawberry Valley. More trapping will take place. Personnel from Oregon and Washington are in Utah and have trapped 9 sharp-tailed grouse. They are hoping to augment small populations in their states.

The list of Priority Projects For Upland Game Habitat Restricted Funds was updated and will be discussed again at the May meeting. Members were asked to be prepared to assign specific priorities to each project.

New Business

A sage-grouse population and habitat survey will be conducted this summer on lands in Rich County. Last year's survey on Deseret Land and Livestock property will be expanded.

The committee discussed habitat funding strategies. Ernie Perkins provided information on how the Council plans to divide this year's money. The committee was asked to provide direct input on the spending of \$30,000 of the approximately \$230,000 available for all upland game projects. Several options were discussed. The committee agreed that all of the \$30,000 should be spent this year. Projects from around the state were approved with top priority going to the Walk-in Access Program, food plots on the Annabella WMA and several guzzler projects.

Upland Game on the Internet

You can get more Utah upland game information at <http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame/> including the past minutes for this committee, news, proclamations, and information about upcoming public meetings.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 9, at 6:00 P.M. at the DWR State Office at 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake

City. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month unless otherwise agreed upon.

Proposed items for the next meeting are:

Priority projects for upland game habitat restricted funds
Forest grouse management plan
Pheasant management plan

Let us know of donations, projects, etc., made by your group – we want to publicize good activities!

If you know of other interested parties who should get copies of the minutes, and who are involved in upland game organizations or programs, please get us their names. If you want to make an e-mail input, please send it to:

Dean Mitchell deanmitchell@utah.gov Ryan Sorensen ryan@mybirddog.com Jim Gaskill jhgaskill@weber.edu

Submitted ... James Gaskill